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Section I (Statement of the Claims)RECEIVED  
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JUN 20 2007

The claims of the application are set out below.

1-21. **(Canceled)**

22. **(Previously presented)** A centrifuge tube having a body with a closed distal end, an open proximal end, and integral hinge elements at opposing sides of the body to facilitate compression flattening of at least a portion of the body, wherein the body has a substantially uniform diameter along the open proximal end.

23. **(Previously presented)** The centrifuge tube of claim 22 wherein the body has a central axis extending through the closed distal end and the open proximal end, the body has an average cross-sectional area in a direction perpendicular to the central axis, and the open proximal end has a cross-sectional area at least as large as the average cross-sectional area.

24. **(Previously presented)** The centrifuge tube of claim 22, further comprising a cap matably engageable with coupling structure at the proximal end of the centrifuge tube.

25. **(Previously presented)** The centrifuge tube of claim 22, wherein the body comprises concave depressions on an exterior surface of the tube, opposingly facing one another, between the respective integral hinge elements.

26. **(Previously presented)** The centrifuge tube of claim 22, wherein each of the integral hinge elements comprises any of a ridged structure, a corrugated protrusion structure, and a protrusion of generally triangular cross-section.

27. **(Previously presented)** The centrifuge tube of claim 22, formed by a molding technique selected from the group consisting of extrusion blow molding and rotational molding.

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28. **(Previously presented)** The centrifuge tube of claim 22, having a generally cylindrical form, an inner diameter of up to about one inch, and a length in a range of from about 3 inches to about 8 inches.

29. **(Previously presented)** The centrifuge tube of claim 22, formed of a polymer selected from the group consisting of polypropylene, polyethylene, polyvinylchloride, polybutylene and polyurethane.

30. **(Withdrawn)** A specimen collection kit comprising the centrifuge tube of claim 22, a cap matably engagable with the proximal end of the centrifuge tube, and a swab article having a swab element adapted to collect a specimen and sized such that the swab element may be inserted through the proximal end into an interior portion of the centrifuge tube.

31. **(Previously presented)** A centrifuge tube having a body with a closed distal end, an open proximal end, and integral hinge elements at opposing sides of the body to facilitate compression flattening of at least a portion of the body, wherein the body has a central axis extending through the closed distal end and the open proximal end, the body has an average cross-sectional area in a direction perpendicular to the central axis, and the open proximal end has a cross-sectional area at least as large as the average cross-sectional area.

32. **(Previously presented)** The centrifuge tube of claim 31 wherein the body has a substantially uniform diameter along the proximal end.

33. **(Previously presented)** The centrifuge tube of claim 31, further comprising a cap matably engageable with coupling structure at the proximal end of the centrifuge tube.

34. **(Previously presented)** The centrifuge tube of claim 31, wherein the body comprises concave depressions on an exterior surface of the tube, opposedly facing one another, between the respective integral hinge elements.

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35. **(Previously presented)** The centrifuge tube of claim 31 wherein each of the integral hinge elements comprises any of a ridged structure, a corrugated protrusion structure, and a protrusion of generally triangular cross-section.

36. **(Previously presented)** The centrifuge tube of claim 31, formed by a molding technique selected from the group consisting of extrusion blow molding and rotational molding.

37. **(Previously presented)** The centrifuge tube of claim 31, having a generally cylindrical form, an inner diameter of up to about one inch, and a length in a range of from about 3 inches to about 8 inches.

38. **(Previously presented)** The centrifuge tube of claim 31, formed of a polymer selected from the group consisting of polypropylene, polyethylene, polyvinylchloride, polybutylene and polyurethane.

39. **(Withdrawn)** A specimen collection kit comprising the centrifuge tube of claim 31, a cap matably engagable with the proximal end of the centrifuge tube, and a swab article having a swab element adapted to collect a specimen and sized such that the swab element may be inserted through the proximal end into an interior portion of the centrifuge tube.

40. **(Withdrawn)** An analytical method comprising the steps of:  
providing a swab article having a swab element adapted to collect a specimen;  
providing a centrifuge tube having a closed distal end, an open proximal end, and a body with integral hinge elements at opposing sides thereof to facilitate compression flattening of at least a portion of the body;  
contacting a specimen with the swab element;  
inserting the swab element through the open proximal end into an interior portion of the centrifuge tube;  
compressively flattening at least a portion of the body to contact and compress the swab element to extract at least a portion of the specimen.

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41. **(Withdrawn)** The method of claim 40, further comprising the step of inserting the centrifuge tube into a centrifuge and subjecting the centrifuge tube and its contents to centrifugation.

42. **(Withdrawn)** The method of claim 40, wherein the centrifuge tube is characterized by any of: (i) the body having a substantially uniform diameter along the open proximal end; and (ii) the body having a central axis extending through the closed distal end and the open proximal end, the body having an average cross-sectional area in a direction perpendicular to the central axis, and the open proximal end having a cross-sectional area at least as large as the average cross-sectional area.